GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:392
ANSWERED ON:17.12.2002
GLOBALLY BANNED DRUGS IN INDIA
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appearing in The Hindu, Delhi edition dated November 21, 2002 under the caption `Banned drugs not fully `banned` yet`;

(b) if so, the reasons behind the delay in banning the manufacture of globally banned drugs in India; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to evolve an effective system to check the entry and regulation of drugs into the Indian market?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN PARTS (a) to (c) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 392 FOR ANSWER O 17.12.2002.

(a): Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c): Drugs withdrawn in some countries can continue to be used by other countries. The decision rests on various factors such as the disease pattern in a country, the varying reactions of certain ethnic groups in a given population to the drug and the availability of safer substitutes as well as the cost factor involved in the treatment of a particular disease. There is no system of global banning of drugs. There is an adequate mechanism to review the status of drugs in India as and when any serious adverse event is reported in international journals or WHO newsletters etc. 74 drugs/drug formulations have so far been prohibited/phased out.

The drug or formulations discontinued in developed countries are assessed in consultation with leading experts in the given specializations. Based on their advice, the matter is placed before the Drug Technical Advisory Board (DTAB), a statutory body which comprises of representatives from the medical profession, the State drug enforcement authorities, experts, institutions, agencies that advise government on technical issues related to the implementation of the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940.